

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01788 071106Z

15

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 L-03 PM-07

NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

DODE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 PRS-01 IO-14

/111 W

----- 059206

O R 071026Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9501

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHAIBI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KUWAIT 1788

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER ON AREA AFFAIRS

SUMMARY: KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER BELIEVES MOVEMENT TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF DHOFAR REBELLION AND REGULARIZATION OF PDRY-OMANI RELATIONS WILL BE SLOW UNTIL SAUDI ARABIA TAKES AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN SOUTHERN ARABIAN PROBLEMS. HE IS NOT IMPRESSED WITH QATARI EFFORTS EITHER TO PROMOTE CLOSER UNITY BETWEEN LOWER GULF STATES OR TO MEDIATE SAUDI-UAE BOUNDARY DISPUTE. HE AGREES KUWAITI INTERNAL POLITICS OF MORE THAN USUAL INTEREST THIS YEAR, WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS DUE EARLY IN 1975. KUWAITI FONMIN EAGER TO TALK TO USG ABOUT US-KUWAITI RELATIONS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01788 071106Z

AND CONVEY KUWAITI CONCERNS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA.

END SUMMARY.

1. IN PRIVATE TALK OVER TEA AFTERNOON OF MAY 5, FOREIGN MINISTER SABAH AL-AHMAD OFFERED ME FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON VARIETY OF AREA MATTERS:

A. SOUTHERN ARABIA AND DHOFAR REBELLION. FONMIN CONFIRMED ARAB LEAGUE SEC GEN RIAD AND MEMBERS OF AL COMMITTEE ON DHOFAR ARRIVING MAY 8 IN KUWAIT. SABAH SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH ANY TIME SOON ON RELATIONS BETWEEN OMAN AND PDRY, BUT GOK WOULD CONTINUE DO WHAT IT COULD TO HELP PROMOTE SETTLEMENT OF DHOFAR REBELLION. PART OF PROBLEM WAS UNCERTAINTY OF PDRY'S POSITION DUE TO BASIC POLICY DISPUTE AMONG PDRY LEADERS. ON OTHER SIDE, OMANI REPRESENTATION VERY WEAK. FONMINISTRY UNDERSEC YUSUF ALAWI HAD BEEN LEFT TO CARRY BALL FOR HIS COUNTRY. HIS INEXPERIENCE AND STUBBORN PERSONALITY, ACCORDING FONMIN SABAH, RUBBED EVERYONE WRONG WAY. FUNDAMENTALLY, HOWEVER, SABAH SAID, KUWAIT CONTINUED BELIEVE BOTH THAT PDRY ECONOMIC WOES WERE ROOT CAUSE OF ITS DANGEROUSLY REVOLUTIONARY FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN ARABIA WOULD NOT BE SOLVED UNTIL BIG BROTHER SAUDI ARABIA BESTIRRED ITSELF TO TAKE ACTIVE AND IMAGINATIVE INTEREST IN THEM.

B. QATAR. FONMIN SABAH BELITTLED QATARI EFFORTS BOTH TO ENCOURAGE LOWER GULF FEDERATION (A PET SUBJECT OF QATARI RULER KHALIFA) AND TO MEDIATE SAUDI-ABU DHABI BOUNDARY DISPUTE. SABAH MAINTAINED QATARI FONMIN SUHAIM WAS A DILETTANTE, WHO, ON SIGNAL FROM KHALIFA, WAS WONT TO PRESS POORLY STAFFED SCHEMES ON QATAR'S NEIGHBORS AND THEN REACT HUFFILY WHEN HIS PROPOSALS WERE NOT IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTED. FONMIN SABAH ADDED HE ALSO CONTINUING TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF IRAQI ARMS DELIVERIES TO ANTI-KHALIFA ELEMENTS OF RULING AL-THANI FAMILY -- NOT ONLY TO FORMER RULER AHMAD AND SON ABD AL-AZIZ BUT TO OTHERS WITHIN QATAR ITSELF. SABAH SAID HE NOT PREPARED VOUCH FOR ACCURACY OF ALL THESE REPORTS AND WAS SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT RISK SHAIKH KHALIFA'S IRE BY PASSING REPORTS TO HIM; BUT ON BALANCE, SABAH SAID, HE AND PM/CP JABER FELT DUTY BOUND TO DO SO.

C. KUWAIT. FONMIN SABAH AGREED 1974 WAS VERY INTERESTING YEAR POLITICALLY FOR KUWAIT. WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 01788 071106Z

DUE EARLY IN 1975, ALL MAJOR CURRENT ISSUES SUCH AS OIL PARTICIPATION, LABOR, SOCIAL LEGISLATION, INFLATION AND ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT WERE TAKING ON PARTICULARLY VIVID AND PARTISAN COLORATION. FONMIN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PROMINENT MEMBER OF RULING SABAH FAMILY, JABIR AL-ALI, FORMER MINISTER OF INFORMATION, WAS MAKING A BID FOR ENHANCED PERSONAL POWER -- PERHAPS EVEN AIMING AT BECOMING CROWN PRINCE. HOWEVER, FONMIN INSISTED, "SHAIKH JABIR IS WELL KNOWN; HE IS A LONER AND NO ONE REALLY

TAKES HIM SERIOUSLY." FONMIN DISMISSED RUMORS THAT AMIR SABAH AL-SALIM WAS SERIOUSLY ILL. ACCORDING FONMIN, AMIR HAVING PROBLEM WITH SOME OF HIS FACIAL MUSCLES BUT RECOVERING SATISFACTORILY AFTER RECENT TREATMENT IN LEBANON.

D. EXTERNALLY, FONMIN SAID, KUWAIT REMAINED PREOCCUPIED WITH TRYING WALK SAFE PATH BETWEEN ITS THREE BIG NEIGHBORS SAUDI ARABIA, IRAQ AND IRAN. STAYING OUT OF TROUBLE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRED CONSTANT VIGILANCE. BOTH SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS WORRIED ABOUT EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL SITUATION BUT FOR EXACTLY OPPOSITE REASONS: SAUDIS SAW KUWAITIS AS TOO PERMISSIVE AND KUWAITIS SAW SAUDIS AS REPRESSING THE IRREPRESSIBLE. RE IRAQ, KUWAITIS COULD NEVER BE CERTAIN "THOSE BAATHIS" WOULD NOT SUDDENLY SUCCUMB ONCE MORE TO THEIR AGGRESSIVE TENDENCIES.

E. FONMIN SABAH HAD NO CRITICISM RESERVED FOR US. ON CONTRARY, HE SAID KUWAITIS ANXIOUS FOR OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER SOMETIME SOON WHOLE RANGE OF US. KUWAITI RELATIONS; AND KUWAITIS WANTED CONVEY TO KISSINGER THEIR IDEAS AND CONCERNS ABOUT PENINSULA-GULF AREA IN GENERAL AS WELL.

F. PALESTINIANS. SABAH AGREED PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WAS TOUGHEST NUT TO CRACK ON ROAD TO MIDEAST SETTLEMENT. PALESTINIANS WERE DEEPLY DIVIDED AND THOSE BENT ON DEATH AND DESTRUCTION EXCEEDINGLY DANGEROUS. NEVERTHELESS, IN HIS OPINION, PALESTINIANS WERE INEVITABLY "LOCKED IN" WITH NO WAY OUT OTHER THAN CREATION ULTIMATELY OF THEIR OWN SEPARATE STATE CONSISTING BASICALLY OF WEST BANK.
STOLTZFUS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, PALESTINIANS, DHOFAR, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KUWAIT01788
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740110-0090
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740569/aaaacjkn.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIEWS OF KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER ON AREA AFFAIRS SUMMARY: KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER BELIEVES MOVEMENT TOWARD
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, KU, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005